

OK TO ENTER: /E.F./

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|--------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| In re application of: | § | Docket No. P11712.00 / 31849.35 |
| Shores et al. | § | |
| | § | Customer No. 46334 |
| Serial No.: 10/698,638 | § | |
| | § | Group Art Unit: 3733 |
| Filed: October 31, 2003 | § | |
| | § | Examiner: Cumberledge, Jerry L. |
| For: COUPLING SYSTEM FOR | § | |
| SURGICAL INSTRUMENT | § | Confirmation No.: 3375 |

Mail Stop: AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
MAILED APRIL 15, 2009

I. Introductory Remarks

The present paper is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed April 15, 2009.

No fees, including extension of time fees, are believed necessary for consideration of the present paper. However, if any fees, including extension of time fees and extra claim fees, are necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Haynes and Boone, LLP' s Deposit Account No. 08-1394.

The **Listing of Claims** begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 9.